

droplet being [substantially] immiscible with said liquid layer,

wherein said oily liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute aqueous droplet that are not in contact with said substrate whereby evaporation is reduced.

22. (Amended) The process of claim 21 wherein said planar substrate [has water repellency] is water repellent.
25. (Amended) The process of claim [23] 21 wherein said oily liquid layer is selected from a group consisting of silicone oil, vacuum diffusion pump oil, mineral oil, paraffin oil, or fluorinated oil.
26. (Amended) The process of claim 21 wherein said minute aqueous droplet is shot into said oily liquid layer [to come into contact with said substrate].
32. (Amended) The process of claim [23] 21 further comprising providing an aqueous solution into said oily liquid layer adjacent to said minute aqueous droplet wherein said aqueous solution does not contact said minute aqueous droplet.
33. (Amended) A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet comprising the steps of:
providing a planar substrate;
providing [a] an oily liquid layer;
providing a minute aqueous droplet to [in] contact [with] said planar substrate; said minute aqueous droplet being [substantially] immiscible with said liquid layer; and
providing a covering in contact with minute aqueous droplet,
wherein said oily liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute aqueous droplet that are not in contact with said planar substrate and said covering whereby evaporation is reduced.
34. (Amended) A process for conducting a reaction in a minute droplet protected from

evaporation comprising the steps of:

providing a planar substrate;

providing [a] an oily liquid layer;

providing a minute aqueous droplet to [in] contact [with] said planar substrate; said

minute aqueous droplet being [substantially] immiscible with said oily liquid layer,

providing a covering in contact with said oily liquid layer;

wherein said oily liquid layer surrounds all surfaces of said minute aqueous droplet

that are not in contact with said contact surface of said planar substrate;

providing to said protected minute droplet a reactant; and conducting a reaction in

said produced minute droplet with said reactant whereby evaporation is reduced.

36. (Amended) The process of claim [35] 34 wherein said aqueous minute droplet comprises DNA.

Please cancel claims 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, and 35.

REMARKS

Claims 21-22, 25-26, 32-34, and 36 have been amended. They have been amended per the Examiner's suggestions. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added by these claim amendments. Claim 21 has been amended to recite "in contact with said substrate whereby evaporation is reduced," and to delete the term "substantially" and to recite structural limitations as described in the specification i.e. "planar glass substrate," "oily liquid layer," and "aqueous droplet." Claim 22 has been amended to replace "has repellency" with "is water repellent." Claim 25 has been amended to correct dependency and to add the term "oily" to the liquid layer. Claim 26 has been amended to delete "to come into contact with said substrate." Claim 32 has been amended to correct dependency and to recite structural